

## Claims:

1. A method for providing telephony services through the Internet, the method comprising steps of:
  - by a host connected to a phone line, providing access to the phone line
- 5 through the internet;
  - by a server available through the Internet, communicating with the host and with clients through the Internet to provide clients access to phone services.
- 10 2. A server accessible through the Internet, the server providing access control to a remote client that accesses phone services through a host computer to provide the remote client with phone services available at the host computer.
- 15 3. The server of claim 2, wherein the server provides one or more of the following services: authentication, tunneling, initiation of peer-to-peer communication, routing, directory, directory search, and access rights.
4. A host having access to a local phone service and an Internet connection, the host providing Internet server-enabled access to the local phone service via an internet connection by permitting a client to utilize the local phone service.
- 20 5. The host of claim 4, wherein the server comprises a client.
6. The host of claim 4, wherein the server controls client access to the host.
- 25 7. The host of claim 2, wherein the server provides one or more of the following services: directory search, voicemail and missed calls, call answering, and call initiation.
8. A client enabled to access a phone service through an Internet connection, the client having functions for requesting access to the local phone service, and for performing communications through an established connection.
- 30 9. The client of claim 8, wherein the client provides one or more of the following services: phone line interface, authentication, verification, call

forwarding, call answering, voice mail and missed calls, and local-call routing.

10. A system for providing phone services to Internet users through the Internet, the system comprising:

5 one or more host computers, each host computer having access to a local phone service;

at least one server that controls access between said one or more host computers and phone service clients seeking to access phone services through the Internet.

10 11. A business method, the method comprising charging clients for access to the system of claim 10.

12. A business method, the method comprising providing virtual local phone service for a fee by providing a simulation of local phone service to remote clients through the Internet.